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News Release

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines



Ontario

Northern Ontario
Heritage FundFonds du patrimoine
du Nord de l'Ontario

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Province Helps Northern Resort Go Solar - #970039

Solar Energy Connects Secluded Northern Resort

SUDBURY - The Ontario government is helping a secluded northern tourist outfitter use solar power to connect to high-speed satellite Internet services, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Rick Bartolucci announced today.

"We are on the side of northerners. That's why we are helping the North's tourism sector remain competitive by adopting renewable energy sources in place of fossil fuels," said Bartolucci. "We are pleased to be supporting small businesses across the North in their efforts to grow and create jobs."

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) is providing \$2,900 to Whispering Winds Resort to acquire a solar power system that will be used to supply telephone, fax and high-speed Internet services. Whispering Winds is a wilderness resort located approximately 170 kilometres north of Thessalon and operates primarily during the summer and fall.

"Green energy is becoming increasingly important to the sustainability of many remote northern businesses," said Bartolucci, who is also chair of the NOHFC. "I'm delighted our funding is helping this tourist operator not only reduce energy costs but also to enhance the resort's amenities and appeal to visitors."

Other ways the McGuinty government is contributing to the prosperity of the northern tourism sector include:

- Providing \$60 million annually to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund to support community and economic development
- Maintaining a province-wide system of Ontario Travel Information Centres that provided tourism information to 1.8 million visitors last year.

These initiatives are part of the government's Northern Prosperity Plan. It has four pillars: Strengthening the North and its Communities; Listening to and Serving Northerners Better; Competing Globally; and Providing Opportunities for All.

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Contacts:

Laura Blondeau
MNDM – Sudbury
(705) 564-7454

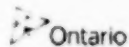
Michel Lavoie
MNDM - Sudbury
(705) 564-7125

www.nohfc.com

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